

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-14 and 16-17 are pending in the captioned application and stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendment and following arguments.

Applicants have amended claim 1, introducing the subject matter of claim 11 into the current claim 1. Claim 11 has been cancelled. Claims 1-10, 12-14 and 16-17 are therefore under examination.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Snoke et al. (US 4,055,469) in view of Izumrudov et al. (Biopolymers, Vol. 52, 94-108, 1999). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that neither Snoke nor Izumrudov teach or suggest the claimed invention. Namely, the references do not teach or suggest controlling the salt concentration during addition of precipitating agent, to “allow quantitative selective precipitation of the nucleic acid/polycation complex”. Thus, Applicants submit that the rejection of the claimed invention should now be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that none of the cited references, whether individually or combined, would render obvious claims 1-10, 12-14 and 16-17.

Appl. No. 10/517,227  
Amendment dated October 20, 2008  
Reply to Office action of February 27, 2008

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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